

IL 19-98-004

In Reply Refer To: 193B3

September 25, 1998

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER LETTER

OPENING OF THE FY 98 CORPORATE DATA FILES

1. To ensure the most accurate information possible, the corporate databases will be opened to accept all Fiscal Year (FY) 98, including data from October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998. This is to allow field stations to correct ambulatory data in the National Patient Care Database and inpatient data in the Patient Treatment File.
2. The Austin databases will be opened to accept these data transmissions by September 28, 1998, and will accept this data through October 16, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time. This Austin modification is sufficient for the acceptance of Patient Treatment File data; this will not require Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) software modification.
3. The ambulatory data requires changes to the VistA database at each medical center which will be accomplished by including this provision in patch SD*5.3*156, FY 99 Ambulatory Care Closeout Dates.
4. This corrected data will be used for the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) system, and for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' annual report to Congress.
5. Data corrections will be incorporated in the 1998 Network Director's Performance Measures.
6. The need to correct this data emphasizes the need for timely data quality initiatives and validation practices.
7. Questions may be directed to Gail Graham at (202) 273-9220.

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Chief Information Officer

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